

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

upon the

**HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION**

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1956

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

upon the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION

of the

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the Year 1956



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29443854>

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Members of the Health Committee

Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. BROWN

Vice-Chairman :

COUNTY ALDERMAN LADY D. SHEPPERSON

County Aldermen :

M. J. Allen	W. H. Gotobed
C. H. Chandler	G. P. Radford
C. M. J. Coote	

County Councillors :

Mrs. M. K. Abrahams	Lord Hemingford
T. H. Burgess	E. G. Holmes
B. S. Bye	G. A. Holmes
E. Collinson	Mrs. W. A. Hunting
S. Cox	T. E. R. Parsons
G. A. Earl	D. V. Robinson
Mrs. S. Evans	H. Wicks
G. E. Fuller	C. J. Wiles
J. J. Wilkins	

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. V. E. Compton	Mrs. D. L. Pledger
Dr. E. R. Dansie	Dr. A. E. Staffurth
Mrs. K. W. Jeffreys	Mrs. V. J. Staffurth
Mrs. Magee	H. Street
Miss C. J. Morgan-Grey	Miss E. Tillard

WHOLETIME STAFF

County Medical Officer of Health :

D. S. Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers :

(Mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)

Jean D. McKellar, M.B., B.S.

Lilian E. Phillips, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time)

Assistant County Medical Officers :

(Child welfare, school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts.

James Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Francis D. F. Steede, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chest Physicians (part-time)

C. E. P. Downes, M.R.C.P.

G. B. Royce, B.S., M.B., Ch.B.

Senior Dental Officer :

(Schools and maternity and child welfare services)

W. R. S. Robertson, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

Inspector under Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders :

Captain W. K. Townson, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time)

Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act :

S. R. Hargreaves

Ambulance Officer :

A. Easton

Tuberculosis Care and After-Care Health Visitor :

Miss A. Garner

Orthopaedic Physiotherapist :

Miss S. A. Sherwood (Commenced 10th September, 1956)

Domestic Help Organiser :

Mrs. B. A. Meadows (Resigned 31st May, 1956)

Mrs. E. A. Flint (Commenced 8th August, 1956)

Welfare Officer for the Care of the Unmarried Mother :

Miss E. L. Rayner

Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

J. B. Ashwell (Retired 15th December, 1956)

Deputy Authorised Officer for Mental Health :

G. Fordham (Resigned 17th December, 1956)

Duly Authorised Officer/ Assistant District Welfare Officer :

R. Norrie (Commenced 17th December, 1956)

Home Teacher and Visitor for Mental Defectives :

Miss O. K. Ivimey

Superintendent of Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives :

Miss L. E. Roberts

Health Visitors :

Miss M. S. Balfour

Miss O. Evans

Miss J. Bassford

Miss H. Hardin

Miss I. L. Bays

Miss E. Pelbrough

Miss H. L. Cornwall

Mrs. M. B. Taylor

Miss A. Boyd (Retired 24th August, 1956)

Chief Clerk :

R. E. Killick

To the Chairman and Members

of the Huntingdonshire County Council.

Mr. Chairman, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the County for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

It is perhaps appropriate to make special mention in this report of the retirement of both Mr. J. B. Ashwell and Mrs. B. G. W. Lovatt, members of the health department staff, that occurred during the year.

In the case of Mr. Ashwell his retirement follows forty-three years in local government service. He was originally appointed as a Relieving Officer in 1913 by the Local Board of Guardians and was transferred in the same capacity to the County Council on the abolition of the Board of Guardians under the Local Government Act, 1929. Subsequently in 1948 he became a Duly Authorised Officer and a District Welfare Officer under the provisions of the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act. Mr. Ashwell was held in high regard by the community at large and was the trusted friend and adviser of all those with whom his work brought him in contact. Similarly Mrs. Lovatt retired after thirty-three years service in the County as a District Nurse-Midwife. Originally appointed in 1923 by the District Nursing Association she continued in this post when the nursing service was transferred to the County Council in 1948 under the National Health Service Act. As a result of her unremitting care and devotion to the sick she gained the confidence and esteem of all residents in her district.

Both these officers have given long and invaluable service to the public and have earned a well-merited retirement.

The satisfactory state of health of former years was well maintained during 1956.

The vital statistics for the County with the Birth Rate 1.0 per thousand above, and the Death Rate 1.3 per thousand below, the national rates may be regarded as very satisfactory. The decrease in the illegitimate birth rate for the year is also a satisfactory feature of the statistics.

The reduction in the recorded number of immunised children in the 10-14 year age group has rendered the diphtheria immunisation state for the present year, set out in Table 21, not quite so satisfactory as for the previous year. The under one year, 1-4 years and the 5-9 years age-groups, however, all show an increase as compared with the corresponding figures for 1955, and these groups are of vital importance as they cover the period of greatest liability.

Apart from the introduction of vaccination against poliomyelitis and the use of a combined antigen as a prophylactic against diphtheria and whooping cough, there was no extension of the County Health Services as compared with the previous year.

Comments have been made under the headings of the various services throughout the report.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support and to record my appreciation of the excellent work done by the medical, nursing and clerical staffs during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

County Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	....	....	....	....	....	....	233,985
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1956)							75,300

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTHS—

Live Births—				Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	....	....	....	602	599	1,201
Illegitimate	....	....	....	25	32	57
Total Births	....	....	....	627	631	1,258
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...			....	....	16.7
Still Births	....	....	....	....	....	30
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births				....	....	23.3

DEATHS—

Deaths from all causes	....	....	....	....	....	779
Death rate (Crude) in—						
Urban Districts	....	....	....	....	....	13.2
Rural Districts	....	....	....	....	....	8.2
County of Huntingdon		....	....	....	....	10.4
England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	11.7

Maternal Deaths—

From pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Nil
--------------------------------------	------	------	-----

Infant Deaths—

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
per 1,000 births—

Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	20.8
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	35.1
Total death rate	....	....	....	....	....	21.5

Population

The statistics issued by the Registrar General for 1956 comprise figures relating to resident civilians and members of the armed forces stationed in the area. The population figures thus obtained are referred to as "home populations." The estimated home populations of the County Districts at the 30th June, 1956, were as follows :—

Administrative County	....	....	....	75,300
Urban Districts	....	....	....	32,300
Huntingdon M.B.	....	....	....	5,590
Godmanchester M.B.	....	....	....	2,450
St. Ives M.B.	....	....	....	3,360
St. Neots	....	....	....	5,140
Ramsey	....	....	....	5,670
Old Fletton	....	....	....	10,090
Rural Districts	....	....	....	43,000
Huntingdon	....	....	....	12,100
St. Ives	....	....	....	14,990
St. Neots	....	....	....	7,280
Norman Cross	....	....	....	8,630

The mid-year 1956 population of the County as estimated by the Registrar General at 75,300 shows a net increase of 2,300 as compared with the estimated population in the previous year.

The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, was 479 as compared with 387 in 1955.

Births

Live births notified in the County numbered 1,258 representing a birth rate of 16.7 per 1,000 of the resident population. This shows an increase over the birth rates for the preceding two years and compares very favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales which is 15.7.

The total number of illegitimate births was 57 equivalent to 4.5 per cent of all births which shows a slight improvement on the previous year when the corresponding figures were 59 and 5.0 per cent.

Still births numbered 30 compared with 27 in 1955. The still birth rate of 23.3 per 1,000 total births for the year, a slight improvement on 23.39 for the previous year. The still birth rate for England and Wales was 23.0 per 1,000 total births.

Deaths

Deaths from all causes numbered 779 compared with 783 in 1955 and 831 in 1954. The crude death rate for Huntingdonshire was equivalent to 10.4 as compared with the corresponding figure of 11.7 for England and Wales.

There were no maternal deaths during the year arising or associated with pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The infantile mortality rate was 21.5 ; the comparable figure for England and Wales was 23.8.

The deaths of infants occurring within the first four weeks of life numbered 16 representing a neonatal mortality rate of 12.72 per 1,000 related live births. The comparable rate for England and Wales is 16.9.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts and of England and Wales for the past five years :—

TABLE 1

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Urban Districts	15.3	17.0	17.0	16.7	17.7	11.8	12.7	14.2	13.0	13.2
Rural Districts	17.0	17.3	16.2	15.5	16.0	10.3	9.3	9.3	9.0	8.2
County of Huntingdon	16.2	17.2	16.5	16.0	16.7	11.0	10.8	11.4	10.7	10.4
England and Wales	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7

TABLE 2

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956
Urban and Rural Districts

District	Area in acres	Persons per acre	Population	Live Births				Deaths				Deaths under 1 year of age		Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death Rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Birth Rate	No.	Net Rate	Standardising Factor	Standardised Death Rate	No.	Rate 1,000 reg'd births		
URBAN :															6
Huntingdon Boro'	2151	2.59	5590	86	15.38	1.03	15.84	147	26.30	0.34	8.94	5	58.14	0.18	0.18
Godmanchester Boro'	4907	0.49	2450	60	24.49	1.03	25.22	28	11.43	0.95	10.86	1	16.67	—	—
St. Ives Borough	2326	1.44	3360	55	16.37	1.02	16.69	40	11.90	0.88	10.48	1	18.18	—	—
St. Neots Urban	1390	3.69	5140	66	12.84	1.05	13.48	50	9.73	0.89	8.66	2	30.30	0.19	0.19
Ramsey Urban	15980	0.35	5670	115	20.28	1.01	20.48	55	9.70	1.11	10.77	3	26.09	—	—
Old Fletton Urban	3029	3.33	10090	190	18.83	1.01	19.02	107	10.60	1.25	13.26	4	21.05	—	—
Totals for Urban Dist's	29783	1.08	32300	572	17.71	1.02	18.06	427	13.22	0.82	10.84	16	27.97	0.06	0.06
RURAL :															
Huntingdon	69937	0.17	12100	207	17.11	1.39	23.78	82	6.78	1.36	9.22	5	24.15	—	—
St. Ives	45911	0.33	14990	232	15.48	1.12	17.33	123	8.21	1.13	9.27	1	4.35	0.13	0.13
St. Neots	52559	0.14	7280	131	17.99	1.13	20.34	67	9.20	0.91	8.37	3	22.90	—	—
Norman Cross	35795	0.24	8630	116	13.44	1.07	14.38	80	9.27	1.21	11.22	2	17.24	0.16	0.35
Totals for Rural Dist's	204202	0.22	43000	686	15.95	1.18	18.82	352	8.19	1.15	9.41	11	16.03	0.07	0.12
Administrative County	233985	0.32	75300	1258	16.71	1.11	18.54	779	10.35	0.99	10.24	27	21.46	0.07	0.09
England and Wales					15.7				11.7				23.8		

TABLE 3

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND IN

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE							
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	10	2	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—
14. Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	1	1	—	4	20	27	21
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	3	17	29	49
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	—	17	37	48
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	9
20. Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	1	12	32	107
21. Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	10
22. Influenza	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	7
23. Pneumonia	6	1	—	—	—	9	4	13
24. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	13
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	3
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	5
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	11	1	—	1	3	14	12	43
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1	2	2	11	3	1	2
34. All other Accidents	1	—	—	3	3	3	3	4
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ALL CAUSES	27	4	5	6	35	153	192	357

3

DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1956

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon Borough	Godmanchester Borough	St. Ives Borough	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton U.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	5	—	1	1	3	2	1	5	—	1
15	3	—	—	2	1	1	1	4	1	2
11	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	—	1
7	4	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
74	11	2	4	4	8	10	7	15	5	8
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
98	18	2	8	5	3	14	9	11	12	16
102	8	5	4	8	6	22	9	19	9	12
17	6	—	1	2	—	3	—	4	—	1
152	42	6	7	3	15	22	16	20	9	12
21	7	2	4	—	1	1	4	1	—	1
13	1	—	—	6	—	1	2	—	3	—
33	1	1	1	1	4	3	8	5	5	4
28	6	1	3	2	2	5	1	5	3	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
12	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	1	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	5	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	—
8	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	1	1	1	—	2	—	1	1	2	—
85	12	3	3	12	4	11	9	9	11	11
22	3	2	1	—	—	2	6	5	1	2
17	5	1	—	2	1	2	2	3	1	—
8	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
779	147	28	40	50	55	107	82	123	67	80

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

(Section 22)

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care

There has been little change in the arrangements for the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal care of mothers. The relaxation classes held for expectant mothers are well attended and the talks on mothercraft by the midwives and health visitors give additional interest to these classes. Towards the end of the year a further class was commenced in the north of the County.

The total number of attendances at ante-natal clinics was 2,012 made by 584 expectant mothers. These figures are higher than in the previous year although the average number of attendances per patient remained at 3.4 which is the same as for the previous year.

The number of mothers who attended these clinics for post-natal examinations was 123 compared with 96 in 1955.

The facilities available for the care of the unmarried mother remained the same as in previous years. Those mothers for whom no other suitable arrangement can be made by the Welfare Worker are admitted to the Home for Unmarried Mothers at Bateman Street, Cambridge.

Maternity Outfits issued to domiciliary midwifery cases in 1956 numbered 530.

Examination by general practitioner-obstetricians of cases undertaken by midwives were as follows —

Ante-natal examinations	....	....	....	19
Post-natal examinations	....	....	....	9

TABLE 4
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

	Number of clinics provided at end of year	Number of sessions held per month		Number of women in attendance		Total number of attendances during the year	
		Medical Officers' Sessions	Mid- wives' Sessions	Number of women who attended during the year	Number of new cases included in last column	Medical Officers' Sessions	Midwives' Sessions
Local Health Authority clinics :							
Ante-natal	5	9	7	534	323	1,248	624
Post-natal	—	—	—	109	52	110	—
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations:							
Ante-natal	1	2	—	50	42	140	—
Post-natal	—	—	—	6	5	13	—

Infant Welfare Centres

As in 1955, there were 19 centres at which Infant Welfare sessions were held. Of these, 16 were staffed by the Health Department of the County Council and two by the Royal Air Force, namely Wyton and Upwood. The remaining clinic at Old Fletton is run by a voluntary organisation.

There was an increase in the total number of attendances made at Infant Welfare Centres throughout the County during the year. the number rising from 10,348 in 1955 to 10,795 in 1956.

The number of children between birth and the age of one year attending increased from 702 in 1955 to 797 in 1956. The general tendency at present is for more infants to attend the Centres and fewer toddlers, i.e. the 2-5 year age group.

The use of a combined antigen to protect children against diphtheria and whooping cough was introduced during the course of the year.

The buildings in which the clinics are held are in many cases hired halls and these leave much to be desired in the way of cleanliness and amenities. At St. Neots, one of the larger clinics in the County, the building is quite inadequate and is in a very poor state of repair and decoration. A new clinic has been included in the County's building programme and it is anticipated that building will commence in the near future.

TABLE 5

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

	<i>First Attendances</i>		<i>Subsequent Attendances</i>			<i>Total Attendances</i>
	0 — 1 year	1 — 5 years	0 — 1 year	1 — 2 years	2 — 5 years	
<i>County Centres</i>						
Alconbury	9	1	41	19	10	80
Brampton	27	3	153	36	49	268
Buckden	19	—	105	57	77	258
Elton	12	2	80	89	56	239
Fenstanton	14	1	71	54	129	269
Great Gransden	10	2	51	10	15	88
Great Staughton	13	1	63	47	94	218
Huntingdon	111	7	901	236	186	1441
Kimbolton	16	8	85	88	138	335
Ramsey	58	10	271	61	20	420
St. Ives	63	14	792	172	143	1184
St. Neots	91	12	952	355	373	1783
Sawtry	11	6	61	42	108	228
Somersham	23	6	99	40	52	220
Warboys	36	21	171	72	116	416
Yaxley	32	1	106	50	14	203
<i>Voluntary Centres</i>						
Old Fletton	126	5	1286	406	125	1948
Wyton Aerodrome	61	8	489	123	49	730
Upwood Aerodrome	65	12	367	14	9	467
<i>Total Number of Attendances at all Centres</i>	797	120	6144	1971	1763	10795

Premature Infants

During the year 1956 notifications were as follows :—

Number of Premature Live Births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	....	....	....	....	....	44
(b)	At home	....	....	....	....	....	18
(c)	In private nursing homes			....	....	....	—
Total							62

Number of Premature Still-births notified (as adjusted by transferred notifications)

(a)	In hospital	....	....	....	....	....	15
(b)	At home	....	....	....	....	....	1
(c)	In private nursing homes			....	....	....	—
Total							16

The total number of live premature births in the County decreased from 85 in 1955 to 62 during 1956. This figure is still somewhat higher than the average figure for the preceding three years, i.e. 1954, 1953 and 1952 when the figures were 62, 58 and 51 respectively.

It must be remembered that there are several factors which have considerable bearing on this increase in the number of premature live births some of which are not apparent at first glance. The most important factor is the tendency for the artificial induction of premature labour in cases of toxæmia of the mother. Premature birth will frequently augment the chance of the baby being born alive rather than if pregnancy was allowed to proceed to full-term.

Premature still-births numbered 16 compared with 14 in the previous year.

TABLE 6

Weight at Birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days
3 lb. 4 oz. or less	6	4	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	9	2	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	13	—	12	6	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	16	—	15	8	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	44	6	34	17	3	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—

Born in hos-
pital

Born
at
home

Born
in
nur-
sing
home

Born in nursing
home and
transferred to
hospital on or
before 28th day

Total
Died
within
24
hrs. of
birth

Survived
28
days

Born in nursing
home and nursed
entirely there

Total
Died
within
24
hrs. of
birth

Survived
28
days

Born at home
transferred to
hospital on or
before 28th day

Total
Died
within
24
hrs. of
birth

Survived
28
days

Born at home
and nursed
entirely at home

Total
Died
within
24
hrs. of
birth

Survived
28
days

Born in Hospital

Total
Died within
24 hrs. of
birth

Survived
28
days

Dental Care

The Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“ Treatment for maternity and child welfare patients has been given, as in previous years, at the Dental Clinics at Huntingdon, Old Fletton, Ramsey, St. Neots and St. Ives.

“ The demand from expectant and nursing mothers and from pre-school children is very low. I can only assume that many patients who require treatment must now go to dental practitioners under the National Health Service.

“ During the year 45 mothers were examined and were given the necessary treatment. Every effort is made to ensure that expectant and nursing mothers are aware of the facilities available to them. Dental acceptance forms for inspection and treatment are distributed from the various Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the County by the district nurse-midwives, and treatment has been given to all who have signed the necessary acceptance forms.”

TABLE 7

Numbers provided with dental care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	45	41	41	24
Children under five	25	22	22	22

TABLE 8

Forms of dental treatment provided :

	Scalings & gum treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	6	50	—	—	89	—	2	6	—
Children under five	1	7	4	—	10	—	—	—	—

TABLE 9

Maternity Beds

Year	Total No. of Births	Births in Maternity Homes or Hospitals	Percentage of Institutional Births
1952	1,141	678	60
1953	1,246	733	59
1954	1,228	750	61
1955	1,197	717	60
1956	1,288	717	56

The following is a record of admissions to Mother and Baby Homes during the year :—

Diocesan Home, Cambridge	....	....	8
Other Homes	....	....	Nil

Ophthalmic Work

The following table summarises the ophthalmic work undertaken :—

	Huntingdon	Old Fletton
Number of new cases	21	2
Number of old cases	76	4
Number of attendances	97	6
Total number of cases in which spectacles were prescribed	12	1

Orthopaedic

The following tables give particulars of cases dealt with both at the Surgeons' Clinics and the Care and After-Care Centres during the year.

TABLE 10
ATTENDANCES AT SURGEONS' CLINICS, 1956

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>New cases seen</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					
			<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. & C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Huntingdon	23	121	56	462	91	20	31	660
Peterborough	12	11	4	42	2	6	4	58
TOTAL	35	132	60	504	93	26	35	718

TABLE 11
ATTENDANCES AT CARE AND AFTER-CARE CENTRES, 1956

<i>Clinic</i>	<i>No. of Clinics held</i>	<i>Attendances</i>					
		<i>S.E.</i>	<i>P.E.</i>	<i>M. & C.W.</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	<i>P.H.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Huntingdon	8	31	86	—	—	—	117
Old Fletton	7	7	41	—	—	—	48
Ramsey	7	1	34	—	—	—	35
St. Ives	10	—	88	—	—	—	88
St. Neots	8	—	44	—	—	2	46
TOTAL	40	39	293	—	—	2	334
<i>Home Visits by Physiotherapist</i>		—	10	62	—	3	75

Note —S.E.—Secondary Education ; P.E.—Primary Education ; M. & C.W.—Pre-School cases ; T.B.—Tuberculosis cases ; P.H.—Other Adults.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

The arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods continued to work smoothly throughout the year.

These foods are distributed from five main centres and nine clinics. There are also 23 voluntary distribution centres in the County and I would like to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance given by the workers at these centres.

The following table shows the receipts and issues of Welfare Foods during the year 1956.

TABLE 12

Receipts				Issues			
N.D.M. tins	C.L.O. bottles	A & D tabs. pkts.	O.J. bottles	N.D.M. tins	C.L.O. bottles	A & D tabs. pkts.	O.J. bottles
37,188	7,308	3,140	48,888	35,223	7,114	2,904	46,488

The following statement gives the location and times of opening of the main centres of distribution as at 31st December, 1956.

Huntingdon	No. 6 Hut, Castle Hill House Grounds. Monday 2—5 p.m. Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m. Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. Friday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m. Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
St. Ives	20b, The Broadway. Monday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m. Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m. Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. Infant Welfare Centre, Station Approach. Friday 2—4.30 p.m.
St. Neots	62, High Street. Wednesday 2—4 p.m. Thursday 9.30 a.m.—1 p.m. and 2—4.30 p.m. Saturday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Ramsey	Health Clinic, Westfield. Monday 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m. Friday 2—4.30 p.m. Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m.
Old Fletton	Infant Welfare Centre, London Road. Tuesday 2—4.30 p.m. Wednesday 2—4.30 p.m. Friday 2—4.30 p.m.

PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES

In accordance with the recommendations set out in the circular dated the 31st July, 1950, issued jointly by the Home Office and the Ministries of Health and Education, the co-ordinating committee continued to deal with problem families. This standing co-ordinating committee consists of :—

The County Medical Officer
The Director of Education
The Children's Officer
The County Welfare Officer
The Probation Officers
The Moral Welfare Worker
A representative of the N.S.P.C.C. and
of the National Assistance Board.

with the Clerk of the County Council as Chairman. For a County of this size it is not considered necessary to have frequent formal meetings on the cases that arise insofar that the various officers of the Authority concerned know intimately the other officers and representatives concerned and are therefore able to consult them in an informal manner. It is only where extreme difficulties are encountered that the full committee is called together to discuss the case. These cases are usually those in which a District Council is involved and in which a Notice to Quit has been served on the family on account of, for example, non-payment of rent. The Committee formally met on only one occasion during the twelve months.

The Health Visitors pay special attention to families threatened with break-up and visit intensively in and out of office hours in order that both husband and wife may be seen together. They give actual assistance with budgeting where necessary and undertake practical teaching in the home. The Health Visitors also give advice on the various difficulties which beset the family and endeavour to see that the rent is paid regularly, and use their good offices with hire purchasae and club organisations in those cases where circumstances warrant it.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

(Sections 23 and 25)

Midwifery and Home Nursing continued as a combined service, but owing to vacancies of the nursing staff not being speedily filled it was necessary to employ part-time help for general nursing in those areas where vacancies continued to exist. The midwifery work was covered by the full-time County staff working in the vicinity.

During the course of the year six District Nurse-Midwives resigned. The reasons for resignation were varied—retirement, marriage, similar work abroad, similar work nearer their relatives, etc.

During the same period three District Nurse-Midwives were appointed to undertake full-time duties and one District Nurse-Midwife, one District Nurse, one Assistant Nurse-Midwife and one Bathing Attendant were engaged on a part-time basis.

Without the full co-operation of all members of the staff, and the employment of part-time help, it would not have been possible to maintain a satisfactory Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

The number of domiciliary births attended by the District Nurse-Midwives employed by the County Service was more than in the previous year. The number of home nursing cases was less, there being a decrease in the patients aged 65 years and over. As the Domestic Help Service is mainly used to help the aged people in the County this decrease in their sickness rate would appear to indicate to some extent the value of the work of the Domestic Help.

Six members of the staff attended Midwifery Post-Graduate Courses during the year.

31 Midwives notified their intention to practise in the County and of these 5 were employed in Institutions and 26 as District Nurse-Midwives employed by the County Service.

Towards the close of the year the Peterborough and Stamford Hospital Management Committee approached the County Health Committee regarding the participation of the County Midwives in the domiciliary training of Part II Midwives. The proposal was readily agreed to and the names of suitably qualified District Nurse Midwives were submitted to the Central Midwives Board for approval.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurse-Midwives during the year.

TABLE 13

Number of domiciliary deliveries attended by Midwives during the year :—

(i) Doctor not booked—			
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child	.....	.....	1
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	.....	.....	19
(ii) Doctor booked—			
(a) Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another)	.....	.....	30
(b) Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	.....	.....	409
		TOTAL	459

Number of domiciliary cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1951, by a Midwife—

(i) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service	.....	.....	53
(ii) Others	.....	.....	2
		TOTAL	55

Number of attendances by Midwives during the year to domiciliary cases :—

(i) Doctor not booked	.....	.....	954
(ii) Doctor booked	.....	.....	8966
		TOTAL	9920

Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		296
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child		38

Number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year :—

(i) When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child	.....	143
(ii) When doctor was present at time of delivery of child	.....	27

TABLE 14

Home Nursing

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the number of visits paid by the District Nurses during the year.

(1)	Medical (2)	Surgical (3)	Infectious Diseases (4)	Tuber- culosis (5)	Maternal Compli- cations (6)	Others (7)	Total (8)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year	703	340	—	7	10	—	1060	400	46	173
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the Year.	14542	6023	—	159	93	2219	23036	11394	294	12262

HEALTH VISITING

(Section 24)

One member of the Health Visiting staff retired and this vacancy had not been filled by the end of the year.

The number of children seen in their own homes by the Health Visitors was more than in the previous year, but because of selective visiting the total number of visits to individual homes made during the year was less. There are still problem families in the area but the general standard of mothercraft in the County continues to improve.

More domiciliary visits have been made by the health visitors to expectant mothers. Health education and mothercraft teaching is given by the health visitors at the ante-natal and relaxation clinics. By combining the health education given by the health visitors with the ante-natal care given by the midwives the expectant mother is made aware of the continuity of the health service in the County.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by Health Visitors :—

TABLE 15

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	.....	5301
Expectant mothers :		
First visits	.....	67
Total visits	.....	113
Children under 1 year of age :		
First visits	.....	1225
Total visits	.....	6252
Children age 1 and under 2 years :	.....
Total visits	.....	4483
Children age 2 but under 5 years :		
Total visits	.....	6186
Tuberculosis Households :		
Total visits	.....	22
Other cases :		
Total visits	.....	735
Total number of families or households visited by Health		
Visitors	.....	3878
Total number of attendances made by Health Visitors at clinic		
sessions during the year	.....	822

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(Section 26)

Vaccination

The number of primary vaccinations undertaken during 1956 was 461, which was the same number as in the previous year.

Re-vaccinations of persons, other than those vaccinated before proceeding abroad, fell to the low figure of 2.

During the year ended 31st December, 1956, the number of persons vaccinated was as follows :—

TABLE 16

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	395	26	18	5	17	461
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	—	—	2	2

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

TABLE 17

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1—4	5—14	Total
Primary Immunisation	370	449	156	975
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	68	1181	1249

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria immunisation state within the County of children up to the age of 15 years.

TABLE 18

Age at 31/12/56 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1956	1-4 1952-1955	5-9 1947-1951	10-14 1942-1946	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1952-1956	96	2466	3384	2372	8318
B. 1951 or earlier	—	—	1598	3248	4846

The number of primary and secondary diphtheria immunisations completed in 1956 was 975 and 1,249 respectively. This is a return to the more normal figures of previous years after the unusually low figures for 1955, when primary immunisations numbered 792 and secondary immunisations 834. The low figures in 1955 were due to the suspension of immunisation due to presence of poliomyelitis in certain areas within the County.

It is of interest to compare the figures for the last eight years since the inauguration of the National Health Service.

TABLE 19

Year	Primary	Secondary
1956	975	1,249
1955	792	834
1954	1,039	1,294
1953	503	491
1952	1,064	1,349
1951	969	2,045
1950	940	647
1949	1,015	1,576

It will be seen that when full scale immunisation is taking place the number of primary immunisations are relatively constant, but the number of secondary or reinforcing injections varies considerably.

It will be noted in Table 18 that the number of children born in 1956 who completed their primary course of immunisation by the end of the year was 96, the comparable figure for 1955 was 24.

Although this marked contrast is partly accounted for by the period of suspension of immunisation in the previous year which has been mentioned, a contributing factor was the introduction of combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine in the Infant Welfare Centres and the necessity of commencing immunisation at an earlier age.

TABLE 20

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

Age at date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
<i>Primary Immunisation.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B.	31	26	2	2	3	—	—	64
Huntingdon R.D.	48	43	7	1	2	8	1	110
St. Ives M.B.	31	23	—	—	9	2	—	65
St. Ives R.D.	53	67	8	1	5	20	2	156
St. Neots U.D.	35	39	3	2	—	11	5	95
St. Neots R.D.	41	45	1	2	1	33	7	130
Old Fletton U.D.	55	45	6	4	5	31	—	146
Norman Cross R.D.	27	26	4	1	—	30	3	91
Ramsey U.D.	23	33	6	5	1	1	2	71
Godmanchester M.B.	26	18	1	2	—	—	—	47
Total for County	370	365	38	20	26	136	20	975
<i>Secondary or Reinforcing Injection.</i>								
Huntingdon M.B.	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	7
Huntingdon R.D.	—	—	—	1	2	71	20	94
St. Ives M.B.	—	—	—	—	2	77	14	93
St. Ives R.D.	—	—	—	1	13	216	98	328
St. Neots U.D.	—	—	—	—	5	61	29	95
St. Neots R.D.	—	—	—	—	8	122	47	177
Old Fletton U.D.	—	—	1	—	17	152	32	202
Norman Cross R.D.	—	—	—	—	10	105	41	156
Ramsey U.D.	—	—	—	1	2	7	1	11
Godmanchester M.B.	—	—	—	1	3	61	21	86
Total for County	—	—	1	4	63	878	303	1249

TABLE 21

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the Districts of the County of children up to the age of 15 years

Age on 31/12/1956 (<i>i.e.</i> Born in Year)	Under 1 1956	1—4 1952—1955	5—9 1947—1951	10—14 1942—1946	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1952—1956					
Huntingdon M.B.	7	200	178	234	619
Huntingdon R.D.	10	291	424	330	1055
St. Ives M.B.	4	192	182	86	464
St. Ives R.D.	14	398	519	319	1250
St. Neots U.D.	12	225	301	197	735
St. Neots R.D.	16	336	389	199	940
Old Fletton U.D.	8	327	490	331	1156
Norman Cross R.D.	10	186	439	305	940
Ramsey U.D.	6	192	293	279	770
Godmanchester M.B.	9	119	169	92	389
Total for County	96	2466	3384	2372	8318
B. 1951 or earlier					
Huntingdon M.B.	—	—	111	202	313
Huntingdon R.D.	—	—	289	479	768
St. Ives M.B.	—	—	86	202	288
St. Ives R.D.	—	—	302	678	980
St. Neots U.D.	—	—	103	206	309
St. Neots R.D.	—	—	202	352	554
Old Fletton U.D.	—	—	134	364	498
Norman Cross R.D.	—	—	150	376	526
Ramsey U.D.	—	—	149	235	384
Godmanchester M.B.	—	—	72	154	226
Total for County	—	—	1598	3248	4846

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis. Early in the year 2,430 children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive were registered for vaccination. Small supplies of vaccine were received during May and June when 244 children received two injections and 16 children were given only one injection. In November a further supply of vaccine was received and by the end of the year the total number of completed vaccinations was 257.

AMBULANCE

(Section 27)

The following information relates to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year 1956.

Statistics

TABLE 22

Service	Vehicles	Journeys	Patients	Miles
DIRECTLY PROVIDED—				
Ambulances	4	1740	5384 (764)	68032
Isolation	1	35	48 (20)	1514
St. Neots	1	135	225 (112)	4249
<hr/>				
TOTAL	6	1910	5657 (896)	73835
Sitting Cars	4	1925	7680 (76)	106965
<hr/>				
TOTAL directly provided		3835	13337 (972)	180800
AGENCY SERVICE (Soke of Peterborough)				
		1324	2446 (178)	42255
SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICE (Hospital Car Service)				
		267	570 (—)	13452
<hr/>				
TOTAL (All Services)		5426	16353 (1150)	236507
<hr/>				
TOTAL 1955		5659	16760 (1137)	255296

(Figures in parenthesis indicate Emergency Calls)

The Service continued to function as in previous years and as will be seen from the foregoing figures there were slight decreases in the number of patients carried, in journeys and in mileage.

Transport

During the year an additional vehicle (Bedford Utilicon) was brought into service to ensure that the fleet of ambulance vehicles received regular servicing. The experiment has proved successful.

Towards the end of the year one of the three diesel vehicles ordered was delivered ; the BMC diesel, PEW555, purchased in 1955 has given very satisfactory service having completed 28,500 miles during the year.

A 600-gallon diesel fuel tank and electric pump was installed which has greatly facilitated the refuelling of vehicles and has already shown a saving in fuel costs.

The Austin Ambulance (FEW992) which was not roadworthy was disposed of.

Personnel

The Fireman-Mechanic resigned during the year and a civilian was appointed to succeed him and to serve both the Ambulance and the Fire Services. A civilian driver also resigned to take up other employment and another appointment was made.

The manning of the Infectious Diseases ambulance has given cause for concern and it was decided to increase the retaining fees in the hope of recruiting suitable part-time personnel.

Arising from the Ministry of Health Survey Report an Ambulance Control Officer was appointed in November.

Wireless

Arrangements were made with Pye Telecommunications Limited to instal two-way radio equipment in all ambulances and it was anticipated that this would be operating by the end of January 1957.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

(Section 28)

Tuberculosis

Contact Examinations

The arrangements, whereby all contacts of tuberculosis cases are traced and X-rayed as soon as possible after the notification of new cases, have functioned satisfactorily and remain unchanged. Child contacts from birth to school leaving age are subjected to a skin test and if the result of this is negative are offered B.C.G. vaccination.

Employment and Rehabilitation

Contact continued to be maintained with the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour regarding the finding of suitable employment in certain cases.

The scheme for the admission of cases to Papworth Village Settlement and other Rehabilitation Centres continued and at the end of the year 8 cases were maintained in such Units.

Housing of Tuberculous families

Where the patient suffering from tuberculosis is living in insanitary or overcrowded conditions the circumstances are reported to the District Council with a view to more suitable housing accommodation being provided.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

During the year the Health Committee agreed in principle to a scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of schoolchildren aged thirteen years, but this has not yet been initiated. During the year 41 cases were given B.C.G. vaccination by the Chest Physicians as compared with 12 in the previous year.

Mass Miniature Radiography

The Cambridge Mass Miniature Radiography Unit undertook surveys at H.M. Borstal Institution, Gaynes Hall, Great Staughton, and at Kimbolton School during the year.

I set out below particulars of the number of persons X-rayed.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of persons X-rayed</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
H.M. Borstal Institution, Gt. Staughton	29th November, 1956	128	16	144
Kimbolton School	30th November, 1956	366	32	398

The following Table sets out the number of notifications received during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year and also gives details of the work carried out during the year.

TABLE 23

Notifications received during 1956

Respiratory	49
Other cases	7

Number on Register on 31st December, 1956

Respiratory				Other Forms			
Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total
191	122	20	333	22	35	20	77

Home Visits

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 836 Home Visits to tuberculosis cases during the year.

No. of New Contacts examined

		Huntingdon		Peterborough	
		M	F	M	F
Adults		70	68	18	20
Children		43	43	12	8
Totals		113	111	30	28

No of Skin Tests performed and results

No. Positive	35	43	9	6
No. Negative	64	47	11	5

B.C.G. Vaccination

No. of persons vaccinated during the year	17	6	12	6
---	----	---	----	---

Rehabilitation

No. of persons undergoing rehabilitation at end of year	4	4	—	—
---	---	---	---	---

Total No. of Tuberculosis cases at end of year

Working :	Full-time	81	60	54	18
	Part-time	5	6	—	—
Not working :	Fit for work	1	—	1	—
	Unfit for work	28	23	46	26

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

Following the resignation of Mrs. B. A. Meadows in May, 1956, Mrs. E. A. Flint was appointed and took up duty as Assistant Domestic Help Organiser on the 8th August.

At the end of the year 41 domestic helps were available compared with 73 at the end of the previous year. The number of cases in which assistance was given totalled 186, a decrease of 38 on the previous year.

The number of cases where domestic help was provided during the year was as follows :—

TABLE 24

(a) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	....	29
(b) Tuberculosis	.....	1
(c) Chronic sick including aged and infirm	.....	113
(d) Others	.....	43

I set out below particulars of cases receiving assistance at the 31st December for three months or more, showing the year in which assistance commenced.

TABLE 25

Year	No. of cases
1950	1
1951	2
1952	3
1953	8
1954	8
1955	17
1956	12

The ages of these cases range from 58 to 92 years, the majority being over 75 years of age.

MENTAL HEALTH

(Section 51)

Administration

The responsibility for dealing with all matters relating to Mental Health in the County is delegated to the Health Committee.

The Duly Authorised Officer reached the age of retirement in December and the temporarily employed Deputy Duly Authorised Officer resigned at the same time. In replacing the above officers the Committee decided to appoint two full-time Duly Authorised /District Welfare Officers in order that care and after-care of the mentally sick might be developed.

Mental Illness

As in previous years, the majority of cases continued to be referred by the medical practitioners, with whom excellent relations continue to exist.

Admissions are normally made to Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge, or in the case of patients in the North of the County to Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The number of cases referred during 1956 totalled 130 (64 males and 66 females), an increase of 15 on the previous year. They were dealt with as follows :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Summary Reception Orders	15	19
Voluntary Admissions	34	31
Under Sections 16, 20 and 21	15	16

Of those admitted under Sections 16, 20 and 21, 17 were later made Voluntary patients.

The following summaries set out the work undertaken during the year.

TABLE 26

Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	.....	49
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	.....	61
No. of patients admitted under Section 16	.....	1
No. of patients admitted under Section 20	.....	28
No. of patients admitted under Section 21	.....	2
No. of Certified patients admitted	.....	33
No. of patients discharged	.....	64

Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford, Lincs.

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	.....	14
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	.....	13

Other Hospitals

No. of Voluntary patients admitted	.....	2
No. of Voluntary patients discharged	.....	2
No. of Certified patients admitted	.....	1

Patients in Institutions on the 31st December, 1956.

	Males	Females	Total
Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge	53	84	137
Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey	8	6	14
Graylingwell Hospital, Chichester	—	1	1
St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay	—	1	1
Shenley Hospital, St. Albans	—	1	1
Napsbury Hospital, St. Albans	—	1	1
Springfield Hospital, London	1	—	1
Rauceby Hospital, Sleaford	1	3	4
Cane Hill Hospital, Surrey	1	—	1
Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich	—	1	1
De La Pole Hospital, Hull	1	—	1
	65	98	163

Mental Deficiency

Arrangements for the ascertainment of mentally defective children remain unchanged as in former years. The majority of new cases are reported by the Local Education Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944.

The number of persons ascertained during the year was 12 (9 males, 3 females). Of these, 11 were reported under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. All these cases were placed under Statutory Supervision.

Close co-operation was maintained with the Regional Hospital Board. Due to the shortage of appropriate accommodation in hospitals, only two vacancies were found available in Little Plumstead Hospital for urgent cases within the County during the year; consequently the position as regards numbers awaiting admission to hospital remained practically unchanged.

Training and instruction of patients in their homes was continued by the Home Teacher and at the end of the year 7 male and 9 female defectives were receiving this training. Two patients under guardianship were attending occupation centres. The total number under supervision was 122 (71 males and 51 females). Regular visits were paid to all cases under Statutory Supervision and also to patients on licence from hospitals.

The following table summarises the number of such visits :—

Cases for training at home	....	....	588
Cases under Statutory Supervision or on Licence	....	....	594
Home Conditions reports	....	....	46

The number of cases under Guardianship remained unchanged, seven cases being under guardianship of Nominees of the Guardianship Society, Brighton, and one under guardianship of this Authority.

The following Table gives particulars of defectives on the Register on the 31st December, 1956.

TABLE 27

		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M	F	M	F
1. Particulars of cases reported during 1956					
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives “ subject to be dealt with ” :—					
Number in which action taken on reports by :-					
(1) Local Education Authorities on children :					
(i) While at school or liable to attend school		1	2	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools		—	—	—	1
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools		6	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts		—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources		1	—	1	—
TOTAL of 1 (a)		8	2	1	1
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not regarded as “ subject to be dealt with ” on any ground					
		—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)					
		—	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1956, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)					
		—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 1 (a) — (d) inc.		8	2	1	1
2. Disposal of cases reported during 1956.					
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives “ subject to be dealt with ” (i.e. at 1 (a)), number :					
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision		8	2	1	1
(ii) Placed under Guardianship		—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to “ Places of Safety ”		—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals		—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 2 (a)		8	2	1	1
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives “ subject to be dealt with ” (i.e. at 1 (b)), number :					
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision		—	—	—	—
(ii) Action unnecessary		—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 2 (b)		—	—	—	—

		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M	F	M	F
(c)	Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) above who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged	—	—	—	—
TOTAL of 2 (a) — (c) inc.		8	2	1	1
3.	Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1956 and admitted to				
(a)	National Health Service hospitals	1	1	—	—
(b)	Elsewhere	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		1	1	—	—
4.	Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/56.				
(i)	Under Statutory Supervision	22	11	45	31
(ii)	Under Guardianship	—	—	2	6
(iii)	In "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—
(iv)	In Hospitals	11	5	27	23
TOTAL of 4 (i) — (iv) inc.		33	16	74	60
(v)	Under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	2	3
TOTAL of 4 (i) — (v) inc.		33	16	76	63
5.	Number of Defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1956, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (Included in 4 (ii))	—	—	—	—
6.	Classification of Defectives in the Community on 31/12/56 (According to need at that date)				
(a)	Cases included in 4 (i) — (iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :—				
(1)	In urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i)	"cot and chair" cases	1	3	—	—
(ii)	ambulant low grade cases	1	1	—	—
(iii)	medium grade cases	2	—	—	—
(iv)	high grade cases	—	—	—	—
TOTAL urgent cases		4	4	—	—
(2)	Not in urgent need of hospital care :—				
(i)	"cot and chair" cases	1	—	—	—
(ii)	ambulant low grade cases	4	—	—	1
(iii)	medium grade cases	1	—	1	—
(iv)	high grade cases	—	—	—	—
TOTAL non-urgent cases		6	—	1	1
TOTAL OF URGENT AND NON-URGENT CASES		10	4	1	1

				Under age 16		Age 16 and over	
				M	F	M	F
(b) Of the cases included in items (4) (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for :—							
(i)	occupation centre	.....	.....	7	3	6	6
(ii)	industrial centre	.....	.....	—	—	2	5
(iii)	home training	.....	.....	2	3	—	2
TOTAL of 6 (b)				9	6	8	13
(c) Of the cases included in 6 (b), number receiv- ing training on 31/12/56 :—							
(i)	in occupation centre (including voluntary centres)	.....	.....	—	—	—	2
(ii)	In industrial centre	.....	.....	—	—	—	—
(iii)	From a home teacher in groups	.....	.....	—	—	—	—
(iv)	From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	.....	.....	6	5	1	4
TOTAL of 6 (c)				6	5	1	6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Incidence of Blindness

There were 182 registered blind persons (88 male and 94 female) in the County on the 31st December, 1956, the same number as at the end of the previous year. During 1956 the number of cases certified blind on Form B.D.8. was 24 (12 male and 12 female). There were 4 inward transfers to the County during the twelve months.

The number of deaths of blind persons recorded during the year was 24 (13 male and 11 female). One male case was de-certified while 1 male and 2 female blind persons left the County during the same period.

The following table shows the ages of blind persons on the register at the 31st December, 1956.

TABLE 28

0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	11—15	16—20	21—30	31—39	40—49	50—59	60—64	65—69	70 and over	Age not known	Total
(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	(—)	2 (1)	(—) (1)	4 (2)	3 (4)	6 (6)	7 (5)	15 (15)	10 (9)	22 (25)	113 (114)	(—) (—)	182 (182)

The number of cases in the County certified to be partially-sighted during the year was 7 (3 male and 4 female). The number of partially-sighted persons on the register at the end of the year was 34 (12 male and 22 female) compared with 32 (11 male and 21 female) at the end of 1955. There was one death and 4 were transferred to the blind register.

The age distribution of the partially-sighted persons is shown in the following table.

TABLE 29

0—1	2—4	5—15	16—20	21—49	50—64	65 & over	Total
—	—	5	2	4	3	20	34

In addition to those already registered as either Blind or Partially-Sighted, in some 27 cases contact was being maintained in case they should subsequently become eligible for certification under the Act.

The following table shows the follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

TABLE 30

(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para 7 (c) of Form B.D.8 recommends :—	CAUSE OF DISABILITY							
	<i>Cataract</i>		<i>Glaucoma</i>		<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>		<i>Others</i>	
	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S	Blind	P/S
(a) No Treatment	4	1	—	—	—	—	12	2
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	4

TABLE 31

Ophthalmia neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of cases in which :—	
(a) Vision lost	—
(b) Vision impaired	—
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	—

TABLE 32

Employment of Blind Persons

(i) Homeworkers	
1 Basket Maker	
1 Piano Tuner and Musician	
1 Weaver	
(ii) Workshop Employees	
2 Basket Makers at Norwich Institution for the Blind	

- (iii) Other Employment
- 6 Labourers
 - 1 Physiotherapist
 - 1 Clerk
 - 1 Factory operator
 - 1 Woodworker
 - 1 Grocer
 - 1 Housekeeper

At the end of the year 17 Blind persons were usefully employed.

Home Teaching Service

Total number of visits made to Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	603
Number of other visits made in connection with blind welfare	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
Number of lessons given	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no great incidence of infectious diseases during the year. The total number of notifications received by District Medical Officers of Health during the twelve months was 728 compared with 1,273 in the previous year.

Diphtheria

It is with great satisfaction that, for the ninth consecutive year, I have the pleasure to report that there were no cases of diphtheria in the County. The present highly satisfactory state is due almost entirely to high immunity state among infants as a result of immunisation. Parents of young children must be made cognisant of the fact that any decrease in the number of children immunised lowers the community immunity state and increases the risk of the re-appearance of cases of diphtheria. This has already happened in some areas.

Poliomyelitis

There were 9 cases of poliomyelitis (3 cases in urban areas and 6 in rural areas) notified during the year as compared with 11 in 1955. The disease, as to be expected, was more prevalent among the younger age groups, 7 of the cases occurred in children between 5 and 7½ years of age, the remaining 2 cases in adults. In 6 of the 7 cases in young children there was initial evidence of paralysis but in only 2 cases was there evidence of residual paralysis.

As regards the adult cases one was of a paralytic type and one of the non-paralytic type of illness ; the former case proved fatal.

Dysentery

Small outbreaks of dysentery occurred in the Boroughs of Huntingdon and Godmanchester and in the St. Ives Rural District, together with sporadic cases in Ramsey Urban, St. Neots Rural and Huntingdon Rural Districts.

Food Poisoning

Cases of food poisoning were relatively few, only 8 cases being recorded during the year.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of Whooping cough was relatively low during the year, only 121 cases were notified as compared with 353 in the previous year.

Measles

Measles was not so prevalent as in the previous year some 426 cases were notified compared with 655 cases in 1955.

TABLE 33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY

for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Poliomylitis	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Malaria	Total
URBAN:																				
Godmanchester	—	—	4	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	8	—	13	1	—	—	19	1	—	51
Huntingdon	—	—	16	—	1	1	1	10	—	—	5	—	186	1	—	—	28	2	—	251
Old Fletton	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	9
Ramsey	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	15
St. Neots	—	—	8	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	15
St. Ives	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	1	—	—	1	—	47
RURAL:																				
Huntingdon	—	—	12	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	7	1	71	1	—	1	8	2	—	108
Norman Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	8
St. Ives	—	—	57	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	10	—	45	4	—	—	15	—	—	133
St. Neots	—	—	11	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	66	—	—	—	1	1	—	91
TOTAL	—	—	121	—	9	14	2	12	—	—	44	1	426	9	2	8	72	8	—	728

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS

No accurate statistics are available regarding the number of adults in the County who suffer from epilepsy. Accurate records exist, however, regarding children of school age of whom 12 are known to suffer from epilepsy and of this number one is in a special residential school for epileptic pupils and one in a special residential school for educationally sub-normal pupils.

There are 7 adults registered as suffering from epilepsy of whom 4 were resident in Colonies in various parts of the County. In addition to these, however, there were 3 individuals resident in Part III accommodation who are known to suffer from epilepsy but have, as yet, not registered under the National Assistance Act scheme for handicapped persons.

At the close of the year 4 adults were registered with the Authority as spastic cases, whilst 4 children were recorded in the Handicapped Pupils Register as suffering from this condition. Of the four school children one was in a special residential school for spastic children.

VENEREAL DISEASES

**Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres.**

TABLE 34

	CAMBRIDGE		PETERBOROUGH		OTHER CENTRES	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from :—						
Syphilis	5	1	8	4	—	—
Gonorrhoea	7	6	7	7	—	—
Conditions other than Venereal	21	17	77	21	—	—
TOTAL	33	24	92	32	—	—

HOUSING

The figures given in the Table below have been obtained from the District Medical Officers of Health and show both the number of new houses erected and also the number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1956.

TABLE 35

<i>Sanitary District</i>	<i>New Houses by</i>		<i>By Adaptation</i>	
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Private Enterprise</i>
URBAN DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon Borough	30	30	—	—
St. Ives Borough	2	5	—	—
Godmanchester Borough	16	3	—	—
Old Fletton	—	211	—	—
Ramsey	—	9	—	2
St. Neots	18	14	—	—
RURAL DISTRICTS :—				
Huntingdon	28	10	—	—
Norman Cross	48	60	—	—
St. Ives	15	36	—	—
St. Neots	4	7	—	1
TOTALS	161	385	—	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

After somewhat prolonged negotiations, the duties imposed on District Councils under Sections 9—18, 21, 31, and 37—39 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which had previously been undertaken by the Health Committee of the County Council following delegation to this Authority by the Huntingdon, Godmanchester and St. Ives Municipal Boroughs and the Rural District Council for Norman Cross, were again taken over by those authorities as from the 1st April, 1956.

Under Section 41 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is empowered, in conjunction with the Minister of Health, to make orders specifying areas within which the use of special designations in relation to milk sold by retail becomes obligatory.

Such an order was made by the Minister covering all the districts within the County which became operative on the 1st October, 1956. The effect of this order is that from the above-mentioned date only heat-treated or tuberculin tested milk may now be sold in the County

The following is a summary of that part of the work under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, undertaken for the Health Committee by the Weights and Measures Officer and his staff.

During the year 231 samples were taken. 140 samples were taken to the Public Analyst and 91 were tested in the office laboratory.

72 samples were found unsatisfactory, which is 31.2 per cent of all samples taken.

The following table presents a picture of the coverage attained in this sphere of public protection.

TABLE 36

Name or description of article	Formal		Informal		Total
	Gen.	Not Gen.	Gen.	Not Gen.	
Lemonade	1	1	—	2	4
Stout	3	1	—	—	4
Almond Paste	1	—	—	—	1
Coffee with cream	1	—	—	—	1
Whipped cream walnuts	—	—	1	—	1
Whisky	3	—	—	—	3
Brandy	1	—	—	—	1
Rum	1	—	—	—	1
Flour	—	—	1	—	1
Steak	—	—	1	—	1
Butter	—	—	—	2	2
Plaice	—	—	1	—	1
Milk (Special Designation)	6	—	—	—	6
Sponge Cake	—	—	2	—	2
Crab paste	—	—	1	—	1
Jelly	—	—	1	—	1
Frozen Vegetables	—	—	1	—	1
Friars Balsam	—	—	1	—	1
Cooked Gammon	—	—	—	1	1
Cooked Ham	—	—	1	1	2
Chloro-Yeast	—	—	1	—	1
Cream of Tomato Soup	—	—	—	1	1
Honey	—	—	1	—	1
Buttered caramel popcorn	—	—	1	—	1
Ice cream	—	—	2	—	2
Butterscotch	1	—	—	—	1
Cheese	—	—	1	—	1
Biscuits	—	—	1	—	1
New Laid Eggs	—	2	—	—	2
Cooking Fat	—	—	1	—	1
Pork Sausage	4	—	2	—	6
Whipped cream bon-bons	—	—	1	—	1
Fruit Salad	—	—	1	—	1
Vinegar	2	—	—	1	3
Margarine + 10% butter	2	—	1	—	3
Cream sponge drops	—	1	—	1	2
Pork pie	1	—	—	—	1
Lard	1	—	—	1	2
Cheese Food	1	—	—	—	1
Garden Peas	1	—	—	—	1
Milk	52	23	21	18	114
Milk Loaf	—	—	1	—	1
National Loaf	—	—	1	—	1
Honeycomb	—	—	—	1	1
Chocolate cream	—	—	2	—	2
Ice cream with added cream	—	—	1	—	1
Radio malt	—	—	1	—	1
Phyllosan Tablets	—	—	1	—	1
Seidlitz powder	—	—	1	—	1
Supervite capsules	—	—	1	—	1
Bread and butter	1	1	—	1	3

Name or description of article	Formal		Informal		Total
	Gen.	Not Gen.	Gen.	Not Gen.	
Cream cakes	—	3	—	2	5
Halibut oil capsules	1	—	—	—	1
Lucozade	1	—	—	—	1
Hot milk	—	3	—	—	3
Ham	1	—	—	—	1
Skim milk	—	1	—	—	1
Cream	2	1	10	2	15
Beer	4	—	—	—	4
Bread	—	—	2	1	3
Brown Ale	—	—	1	—	1
Total	92	37	67	35	231

